

We claim:

1. A fiber-optic cable connection, comprising:  
a first connector part including an optical fiber, said optical fiber  
5 including a terminal end having a conductive coating; and  
a second connector part adapted to mate with said first  
connector part, said second connector part having a verification circuit that  
verifies said first connector part and said second connector part have been  
connected using said conductive coating.  
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2. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 1, wherein said  
verification circuit includes a contact element within said second connector  
part disposed at a position which coincides with a location of said conductive  
coating when said first connector part is connected to said second connector  
15 part.
3. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 2, wherein said  
conductive coating is located at only a terminal end of said optical fiber.  
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4. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 2, wherein said  
conductive coating extends a length of said optical fiber.
5. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 2, wherein said  
verification circuit further includes an electronic device that indicates when  
25 said contact element touches said conductive coating.
6. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 5, wherein said  
electronic device is located in a housing of said second connector part.
- 30 7. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 5, wherein said  
electronic device is located in a housing to which said second connector part  
is connected.

8. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 5, wherein said electronic device includes one of a light-emitting diode and an audible alarm.

9. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 5, wherein said verification circuit includes a power source for activating said electronic device, said power source being located in one of said second connector part and a device connector to said first connector part.

10. The fiber-optic cable connector of claim 5, wherein said conductive coating carries electrical signals from a first electronic device connected to said first connector part to a second electronic device connected to said second connector part.

11. The fiber-optic cable connector of claim 2, wherein said contact element is a ring electrode.

12. The fiber-optic cable connector of claim 2, wherein said contact element includes at least two electrodes.

13. A method for verifying an optical connection, comprising:  
providing a first connector part coupled to an optical fiber, said optical fiber having a terminal end with a conductive coating;  
providing a second connector part having a contact element, said contact element disposed at a position which coincides with said conductive coating of said optical fiber when said first connector part and said second connector part are mated; and  
outputting a verification signal when said contact element touches said conductive coating.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
activating an electronic device based on said verification signal.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said electronic device includes one of a light-emitting diode and an audible alarm.

5 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
transmitting optical signals along said conductive coating  
between two electronic devices.

10 17. The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of said electronic  
devices is a network element.

18. A fiber-optic cable, comprising:  
an optical fiber;  
a conductive coating disposed around said optical fiber; and  
a buffer disposed around said conductive coating, said buffer  
15 including a jacket made from one of plastic and a polymer.

19. The fiber-optic cable of claim 18, wherein said conductive  
coating is located at only a terminal end of said optical fiber.

20 20. The fiber-optic cable of claim 1, wherein said conductive coating  
extends a length of said optical fiber.

21. A fiber-optic cable connection tester, comprising:  
a connector part adapted to mate with an optical fiber that  
25 includes a terminal end having a conductive coating, said connector part  
having a verification circuit that verifies that said connector part and said  
optical fiber have been connected using said conductive coating.

30 22. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 21, wherein said  
verification circuit includes a contact element within said connector part  
disposed at a position which coincides with a location of said conductive  
coating when said connector part and said optical fiber have been connected.

23. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 22, wherein said verification circuit includes an electronic device that indicates when said contact element touches said conductive coating.

24. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 23, wherein said electronic device is located in a housing of said connector part.

25. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 23, wherein said electronic device is located in a housing to which said connector part is connected.

26. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 23, wherein said electronic device includes one of a light-emitting diode and an audible alarm.

27. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 23, wherein said verification circuit includes a power source for activating said electronic device.

28. A method for making an optical connection, comprising:  
providing a first connector part coupled to an optical fiber, said optical fiber having a terminal end with a conductive coating;  
providing a second connector part having a contact element, said contact element disposed at a position which coincides with said conductive coating of said optical fiber when said first connector part and said second connector part are mated.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said step of providing a second connector part includes:

providing an electronic device within said second connector part that indicates when said contact element touches said conductive coating.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said electronic device is one of a light-emitting diode and an audible alarm.

31. A method for making an optical connection, comprising:  
providing a first connector part coupled to an optical fiber, said  
optical fiber having a terminal end with a conductive coating;  
5 providing a second connector part having a contact element,  
said contact element disposed at a position which coincides with said  
conductive coating of said optical fiber when said first connector part and said  
second connector part are mated.